

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

**Vacancy Announcement**

**Director, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research**

**POSITION:** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking exceptional candidates for the challenging position of Director, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR). The Director, who also functions as the NIH Associate Director for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, serves as the NIH focal point for establishing agency-wide policies and goals in behavioral and social sciences research, coordinates the activities undertaken in the performance of this research, and provides advice and staff support to the NIH Director, Deputy Director, and Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives within the Office of the Director.

The position functions as a liaison between the NIH and the extramural behavioral and biomedical research communities; and with other Federal agencies, academic and scientific societies, national voluntary health agencies, the media, and the general public on matters pertaining to behavioral and social sciences research. Specifically, the Director is responsible for: (1) advising the NIH Director and other key officials on matters relating to research on the role of behavioral and social factors in the promotion of health and prevention of disease; (2) fostering research projects in the behavioral and social sciences conducted or supported by the NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs); and (3) working collaboratively with the ICs to develop new research and training programs in the behavioral and social sciences. The Director, OBSSR, manages a staff, demonstrating commitment to work force diversity enhancement. The OBSSR employs approximately 14 full time positions: 9 scientific staff, 2 program analysts, 1 communications specialist, and 2 support staff, and has a FY 2009 estimated budget of more than \$26M.

**CHALLENGE:** As the world's largest medical research facility, NIH consists of 27 ICs including the Clinical Center (an on-site research hospital), the Fogarty International Center, and the National Library of Medicine. NIH's national program of health research and research training is currently funded at \$29 billion for FY 2008. NIH has over 18,000 employees. The Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research opened July 1, 1995, with a mandate from Congress to serve as the focal point for the advancement of behavioral and social sciences research across all of the NIH ICs. The vision of OBSSR is to bring together the biomedical, behavioral, social, and public health science research communities to work more collaboratively to solve the most pressing population health challenges faced by our society. Four core elements of OBSSR's vision are: 1) supporting and facilitating the next generation of basic behavioral and social science research; 2) facilitating interdisciplinary, collaborative research; 3) stimulating systems thinking and modeling approaches to research that integrates multiple levels of analysis – from cells to society; and 4) identifying key problems in health where scientists, practitioners and decision makers can work together to accelerate translation, implementation, dissemination, and adoption of behavioral and social science research findings. More information can be found in OBSSR's strategic prospectus at [http://www.thehillgroup.com/OBSSR\\_Prospectus.pdf](http://www.thehillgroup.com/OBSSR_Prospectus.pdf).

**QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:** Applicants must possess a Ph.D., M.D., or comparable doctorate degree in the health sciences field plus senior-level scientific experience and knowledge of research programs in one or more scientific areas related to behavioral and social sciences research. They

should be known and respected within their profession as individuals of scientific prominence, with a distinguished record of research accomplishments and expertise in policy development regarding behavioral and social sciences research. Candidates should have demonstrated leadership and broad vision in the behavioral and social sciences research arena involving dealings with outside groups; serving as spokesperson; planning, program assessment, and analysis of program objectives; resolution of operational problems and issues; and the ability to manage financial and human resources including building, motivating, and maintaining a culturally diverse staff.

**SALARY/BENEFITS:** The Director, OBSSR, will be appointed at a salary commensurate with his/her qualifications. Full Federal benefits will be provided including leave, health and life insurance, long-term care insurance, retirement, and savings plan (401k equivalent).

**HOW TO APPLY:** Applicants must submit a current CV and bibliography electronically to Ms. Regina Reiter at [SeniorRe@od.nih.gov](mailto:SeniorRe@od.nih.gov) (301- 402-1130). In addition, applicants are strongly encouraged to prepare a supplemental narrative statement that addresses the qualifications requirements, and to provide the names, titles, and telephone numbers of 4-5 references.

Information on the [Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research](#) is located at its website.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS AUGUST 15, 2008.**

The NIH encourages the application and nomination of qualified women, minorities, and individuals with disabilities.

**Standards of Conduct/Financial Disclosure:** The National Institutes of Health inspires public confidence in our science by maintaining high ethical principles. NIH employees are subject to Federal government-wide regulations and statutes as well as agency-specific regulations described at the [NIH Ethics website](#). We encourage you to review this information. The position requires the incumbent to complete a public financial disclosure report prior to the effective date of the appointment.

Selection for this position will be based solely on merit, with no discrimination for non-merit reasons such as race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, disability, age, or membership or non-membership in an employee organization.

**Reasonable Accommodation:** NIH provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodation during any part of the application and hiring process, please notify us. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

**NIH IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**